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THE COMMERCIAL CLUB BANQUET

The banquet given by the Mexico Commercial Club at Hotel Clarkson last Thursday night proved a most enjoyable and profitable gathering. About 145 persons sat down to the festive board; it was 9:30 o'clock, and all sat and ate and talked till 1:30 in the morning. Now you know it was a great occasion.

Nate Phillip called the assemblage to order and introduced Pres. John W. Million of Hardin College as toastmaster. Rev. J. H. Harvey, of the Episcopal church, offered prayer. Mr. Mil-



President John W. Million.

lion then in a plea for a get-together spirit introduced the speechmaking.

Henry D. Llewellyn told of the money the club had handled during the year and how it had been expended. The collections amounted to \$1,167.95; after all disbursements there now remains in the treasury \$133.91.

Fred A. Morris in a happy manner responded to the toast, "God Darn the Man That Throws Ashes Where the Boys Slide"—an idea suggested by Eugene Field. Mr. Morris hit the knockers and rapped those citizens who are opposing the moves for progress which the club has in hand.

Prof. Herbert Pryor, the superintendent of the Mexico schools, talked on "First Impressions." He has not known Mexico many months, but at every turn, so to speak, he has been surprised to get ideas relative to Mexico's importance. "There is the best



Superintendent Herbert Pryor.

school spirit here," he declared. That he had ever seen in any city. Our people are cordial, considerate and progressive.

Clarence A. Barnes spoke on "The Tardy Bell." It was one of the very best efforts of the evening. He urged better school conditions in Mexico, and suggested that the tardy bell had rung on the North Side school building. The old building has about served its day. It was good enough perhaps 40 years ago, but it is seriously lacking in present needs.

Mrs. W. W. Botts was the "single lady" on the program. She

responded to the toast, "The City Beautiful," and kept everybody laughing from first to last. She wanted all rubbish removed from all side streets and alleys, an ordinance prohibiting the leaving of patent medicine samples on doorsteps, declared for more handsome homes, more children and that all the bachelors get married.

T. J. Williams made a characteristic speech on the subject, "Brickbats and Bouquets." It was full of wit and was delivered in the same vein as was the effort by Col. Fred A. Morris.

F. L. Crosby, who farms three miles south of Mexico, spoke on "The Farm Advisor." He had investigated the work done by the farm adviser in Pettis county, Mo., and thinks there should be no let-up until such a man is secured for Audrain county.

Fred W. Pileher discussed "The New Creed." He emphasized the idea of getting together—merchants getting together, farmers getting together. Unity of action; it encourages good feeling and always builds toward success. It was a fine speech.

Dr. J. C. Parrish, president of the Vandalia Commercial Club, was present and made a fine talk, bringing greetings from the east end of the county, calling special attention to Audrain county's two great interests, Agriculture and Fire Clay. "Let's have the Farm Adviser, and also let's look after this clay interest of our county—you have a field of it here at Mexico and we have it at Vandalia. This get-together meeting here to-night is a great thing, and its going to result in greater things, too. Keep up these efforts toward cooperation."

Mr. Bloomer, of St. Louis, made a speech, urging that every man if he would succeed in life should have a wishbone, a jawbone and a backbone.

C. A. Davault, of the Farber Forum, and Mr. Ellis, a business man of Bellflower, each made short speeches.

R. D. Worrell, president of the Club, reviewed somewhat the work of the club during the past year, in the following words:

"Last year I told you I had had a dream about spending \$400,000 in Mexico during 1912. This dream was about making Mexico look more like New York. While we didn't spend \$400,000, yet more than \$300,000 was spent and most of the 'items' of my dream came true, after all.

"We didn't do quite as much paving as we intended, but we got East Love street and the thoroughfare through 'Peckerwood Addition,' paved nicely," with a glance at several residents of Woodlawn.

"Our \$100,000 bond issue we learned wouldn't carry, so we dropped that and let the Bell Telephone Company spend \$100,000 here instead.

"We lost the new jail, but we'll carry it next time. The Elks, headed by that prince of hustlers, Col. Fred A. Morris, built their new home.

"The Masons, who build slowly, but surely, have almost finished their new temple.

"When we took the handles out of all the hammers last year at the get-together banquet, we must have hidden or lost the spades because we've never been able to do any digging on that subway under the railroad tracks.

"As to the hospital I dreamed about, it's a fact there hasn't been enough sickness in Mexico to warrant building the institution.

"We had to fight to get the library, but through the efforts of the women of the town, we landed it. Hardin College has not built that new addition I dreamed of,

but the old buildings are still there and they are packed with young lady students from all over the United States.

"Just a few more things I want to say; some of the kickers, who never attended a luncheon, never helped the club in any way, have the nerve to kick because we have a weekly luncheon. Let me say right here that everybody pays for his own dinner, nor fears the Tardy Bell."

Secretary R. E. Race's report for the year was printed in pamphlet form and lay at each member's plate. It was a story well told.

The Mexico Commercial Club is all right.

SURROUNDING AUDRAIN.

Buries Diamond in His Arm—Mrs. Trimble, Preacher—Unlucky 13.

Wm. Yager, of Minnesota, has rented the Ben Middleton farm, southeast of Auxvasse, and has moved to the same.

Clifford Overfelt, of Auxvasse, has been elected Assistant Instructor in Chemistry at Westminster College, Fulton.

Pete Lanners, employed at the Pickel quarries, north of Warrensburg, while engaged in pushing a wheelbarrow near the edge of a hole, slipped and fell 65 feet to the bottom, landing under the wheelbarrow on a pile of snow. His employer, Ben Pickel, thinking Lanners dead, descended into the hole and found his employee only stunned, but suffering from a broken arm.

A man who gave his name as Hitecock had a diamond weighing a carat and a half cut out of the flesh of his arm in Columbia recently. He declared that the gem had been sewed in his arm in South Africa. Hitecock asked the surgeon to do the job in a hurry, as he wanted to give the diamond in a ring to his wife for Christmas. Hitecock failed to give any details as to his reasons for having the gem imbedded in his flesh.

Mrs. Martha Trimble, pastor of the Christian church at Renick, has been employed to preach on two Sundays of each month for this year. She is the only woman pastor of a Christian church in Missouri, says the Renick Enterprise. She was greeted by large audiences at each service during the revival just closed and the church should be congratulated on being able to secure her services for another year.

Former County Clerk Nim R. Long and wife of Troy are the parents of a baby boy born January 13, 1913, at thirteen minutes before 7 o'clock, weighing thirteen pounds. The baby has received the Irish name of Hanley to overcome the 13 hoodoo.

Monroe county will vote on local option this spring.

The Baptist and Presbyterian congregations over at Paris are each planning to build new houses of worship.

W. M. Overfelt, of Auxvasse, is going to help his neighbors to keep cool next summer—he has put up about 1,500 tons of ice.

Like a Letter From Home.

C. T. Howard, at Moberly, Mo., formerly of this county, writes under recent date as follows: "Find enclosed one dollar for the Message another year. We cannot do without it. It is like a letter from home."

SHORT INTERVIEWS.

John Million and His Dictionary—The Devil After Tom Walker.

Albert Davis: Say, Mr. Editor, that was a good article you had last week by Prof. Fonville on how to raise a boy. "Put the little scamp in a barrel and feed him from the bung-hole" is a thought very suggestive.

George Marshall and John Million, Jr., meet on the street: "John, where've you been?" "Been up town and bought me a dictionary. Ah, it's a great book. Has all the cuss words in it. I looked up the word dam, and it said dam is an obstruction that obstructs. That dictionary is a dandy, I tell you."

A. B. Weidler: We have a lively Sunday school out at Bethel church. Your humble servant is superintendent. We had the following interesting program some time ago, which I have been carrying in my pocket, neglecting to hand to you: Song, Joy to the World. Four recitations—Blanche Roberts, Elbert Booth, Myra McClintick and Wallace Dean. Flag drill. Recitation, Mildred McClintick. Solo, Nellie Booth. Recitation, Jennie Dean. Recitation, Lucile Horton. Recitation, Lucile Horton. Recitation, Ethel Schoemaker—an extra fine effort. Recitation, Elsie Waugh. Vine Drill. Recitation, Sadie Allison. Closing song. It was a delightful program, Mr. Editor.

T. F. Dews: Here, Mr. Message Man, is a dollar, let your good paper go to my son, Carl Dews, at Lansing, Kan. I like your publication and I believe the boy will too.

Rev. George Orlowski: I lost my pocketbook, containing some money some time ago. I advertised the fact in the Message, as you know, Mr. Editor, but I have not heard from the finder. If said finder saw that adlet and yet does not report—if I knew him I would call him a dishonest man.

W. G. Armstrong: I am here from Seneca, Mo. Am here to visit relatives and especially to see Uncle Joe Armstrong, out northeast of Mexico, who is in feeble health. He is 83 years old. I like it down at Seneca. Land sells at \$7 an acre on up to \$50. It's the place for a man with small means. I lived here in Audrain for a long time, but I am doing far better where I am now than I was ever able to do here. We're all Bull Moosers down our way; we expect to put Teddy in next time sure.

Wm. Duckworth: This is Saturday. The frost all went out of the ground. But last night there was a freeze which has made the roads awfully rough. But, to our friends in distant States, this a beautiful day overheard in Missouri.

Rev. W. F. Dunkle: I talked at the Methodist church last Sunday night on the subject, "The Devil and Tom Walker." I did not aim to be sensational; I aimed only to tell the truth. I urged that there is a devil, and that he "goes about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." He lives in many places and has a residence in Mexico. He is here by invitation of many of our citizens. He is given a place to live and is welcomed with open arms. He is after Tom Walker—one of our good citizens, a man who pays his debts and whose word is as good as gold. The devil wants Tom

Walker and his family of good boys and girls, and Mrs. Tom, and their home, and their property. The devil has been around Tom's home, peering in his windows. Neighbors know this; they have seen his tracks. But Tom doesn't know the devil is after him, and neighbors fail to tell him. Why don't you tell Tom? Tom is a good fellow, as we have said, but he stays away from the meeting house and the preacher—his neighbors fail in their duty toward him—and the devil's going to get Tom Walker. Now won't you wake up, good people, and help kick the devil out? These and other things I said and I hope it may put folks to thinking. Next Sunday night I expect to talk about the "Missouri Mule." I know something about the mule—more than some of his owners know.

PREACHING IN BRAZIL.

A Man Well Known in Mexico Tells of His Experiences.

Rev. Walter Borchers, raised up here at Moberly, Mo., educated at Fayette and well known by many in this city, is a missionary down at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, preaching for the Southern Methodist church. In a letter to the Christian Advocate he writes the following:

During the last month six persons at each of my churches have accepted Christ at the regular services. Three weeks ago two splendid young men noticing the change in the lives of some of their relatives, accepted an invitation to come to church. That very night they both accepted God and applied for membership in the church.

Three weeks ago a young man who had been a member of a club of rationalists, noticing that the Christians were happier and purer than the rest of mankind, came out to church to see what we taught. He came again the following Sunday and when the service was over he came to me and said that he wanted to quit his sins and accept Jesus as his Saviour. He said he had been told that we worshipped the head of an ox, but that seeing how much better and happier Christian people were than others, he had come to see what we believed and taught, and that he was fully convinced that we were teaching the truth, which he and his wife needed in order to be happy.

I have mentioned these cases because they are a little more striking than some of the others. There is, however, a very interesting story connected with the conversion of every soul, especially those who have not been raised up in the midst of Christian influence.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Nov. 29, 1912.

Mrs. Bradley Dead.

Mrs. Susan Bradley, 76 years old, died at her home in this city last Friday morning after a long illness. She was the mother of B. R. Middleton here, and another son, T. A. Bradley, resides at Danville, Ky. A grandson, Morris Middleton, resides here and also a great grandson, Lawrence Kunkel.

Deceased was a splendid Christian woman. Rev. W. F. Dunkle held funeral services at the home Sunday afternoon. Burial in Elmwood. The pall bearers were: S. P. Emmons, Judge Alex Carter, W. J. Botts, W. F. Atkins, Sam Locke and John B. Graham.

Mrs. Harriett McCune, of Auxvasse, came over to Mexico last week to spend the remainder of the winter with her children here.

SPECIAL MENTION.

Mr. Douglass' Turkeys—T. W. Smith Quits Farm—Mr. Dye's Purchase.

Shelt Douglass, of Benton City, has a big flock of White Holland turkeys that are said to be beauties indeed.

Robert Dye bought at public auction in Mexico last Saturday the 80 acre S. M. Stokes farm, two miles southeast of Rush Hill, at \$63 per acre. Mr. Stokes lives in Tennessee. Ns. Myers advertised the sale and had the matter in charge. A large crowd was present, interested in the sale.

Dr. J. E. Murdock and wife both died last week within two days of each other, at their late home in Ypsilanti, Mich. Dr. Murdock was a resident of Mexico a number of years ago.

Mrs. Frances Cook Clay, daughter of S. B. Cook, formerly of Mexico, now of Jefferson City, is suing her husband for divorce, alleging incompatibility of temper.

Miss Mary Hassell Montague, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Webb Montague, of this city, was married, on the 15th inst., to Mr. Frank Witherspoon, Jr., at Kansas City, where the Montagues have been spending the winter.

The Auxvasse Review says that Mike Shire has leased the Auxvasse Hotel and will take charge the first of next month. Mr. Shire is a brother of Philip Shire, northeast of Mexico.

T. W. Smith, near Gant, will have a public sale Feb. 4. He has rented his farm to Charles Crump and will move to Auxvasse and will take employment with the Illinois Coal Co.

SANTA FE ITEMS.

Real January weather. The sick people are all getting along nicely.

A large crowd in town Saturday.

Uncle Jack Sterrett was able to be out in town Saturday.

Mrs. Crump left Saturday for Perry to make her son a visit. She goes from there to Hannibal to visit her daughter, Mrs. Beam.

Mr. and Mrs. Compton have a very sick child.

Mrs. Trimble of Montgomery City has been visiting in the South Fork neighborhood.

Mr. Parish, our mail carrier from Santa Fe to Paris, is on the sick list.

Homer Bozarth and wife entertained a crowd of young folks Saturday night.

There was a good crowd at Sunday school Sunday.

Mrs. Frank Harlow is on the sick list.

John Thompson will move onto the Downey farm in the spring.

Earnest Hale will move to the Hendrix farm. That will call for a new telephone operator.

Miss Alta Beamer is spending the week with Mrs. Doll Hanger.

Will and Claude Sterrett spent last week in Columbia.

Ed. Williams, of this city, was robbed of his watch and ring and pocketbook containing \$12.50 in a hotel in Chicago one day last week. The robber was caught and the watch and ring recovered.

H. B. McKinley, who has been traveling for a jewelry company for several years, has bought the restaurant and confectionery business of his father here, J. W. McKinley, and took charge Monday.

BOYS TAKE EXAMINATION

The examination for appointment to the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., authorized by Congressman Chanap Clark, was held in Mexico last Saturday.

No Audrain county boys took the test.

The examination was on the following subjects:

Arithmetic, Grammar, U. S. History, Geography, Algebra and Plane Geometry. The applicants stood also a physical examination given by Drs. R. C. Strode and J. F. Harrison.

The young man receiving the highest grade and passing a satisfactory physical examination will be appointed to Annapolis. The next best will be appointed alternate.

Those in charge of the examination were: Supt. Herbert Pryor, of this city; Prof. Henry Vosahl, Central Wesleyan College, Warrenton; A. G. Elam, Supt. at Perry; J. W. Davis, Supt. at Wellsville; Miss Elizabeth Whitaker, former Supt. at Louisiana, and R. V. Ellis, Supt. at Troy.

The young men who took the examination were: Lee Finley, Wellsville, Montgomery county; Ellis Young, Troy, Lincoln county; Theodore Gupton, Montgomery, Montgomery county; James Connally, of New Haven, Franklin county; George Housman, Washington, Franklin county.

Ellis Young was the successful contestant, James Connally was second and George Housman was third. Two boys were barred in the medical examination on account of defective eyesight.

GANT NEWS.

The roads are very bad. Mrs. Ollie Sims who has been quite sick is better.

Buck Beatty and wife of near Centralia visited his mother here Sunday.

John Rutter of Centralia was the guest of Allen Duffy and family last week.

Ben Robinson has rented a farm north of Mexico and will move this week, and Ezra Petty of near Sturgeon will move to the place where Mr. Robinson now lives.

J. F. Edwards attended Farmers Week at Columbia.

Mr. and Mrs. Hickman entertained their daughters, Mrs. Fannie Juelfs and little daughter of near Mexico, and Mrs. Jennie White and little daughter from Slater Sunday.

Tom Duffy sold hogs to Powell of Mexico at \$7.10 to be delivered Monday.

W. M. Stowers sold a horse to Mexico buyers at \$150 Saturday.

There is to be preaching at Salt River next Sunday, the 26th.

HOLLENSVILLE NEWS.

Miss Leta Rudasill is in Oklahoma City, the guest of her aunts, Mrs. Bedford and Miss Jennie Baker.

F. L. McGee and family are guests of Dr. B. C. McGee and family of Sherman, Texas.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. K. Stamper, Jan. 14, a son, Jas. Woodrow.

Dr. Clarence Rothwell is not improved in health lately and is thinking of going back to the hospital in St. Louis.

Mexico Savings Bank

Capital Stock, \$100,000.00

43rd Year in Business.

W. W. FRY, President.

SAM LOCKE, Cashier.